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Agenda item 89

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

United States of America: draft resolution

Fisheries bycatch and discards and their impact on the sustainable use of the world's living marine resources

The General Assembly,

Noting that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1/ calls upon States to take into consideration the effects on associated or dependent species when establishing conservation and management measures for target fisheries,

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development agreed to promote the development and use of selective fishing gears and practices that minimize waste in the catch of target fish species and minimize bycatch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, 2/

1/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

2/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

Further recalling that earlier in 1992 the International Conference on Responsible Fishing held in Cancun, Mexico, also agreed to this later goal, 3/

Also noting that the 1992 World Fisheries Conference in Athens discussed various aspects of the fisheries discard issue,

Recalling the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on fisheries bycatch and discards in the development of an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing,

Also recalling that the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks is considering provisions on fisheries bycatch and discards in the draft agreement it is preparing,

1. Believes the issue of bycatch and discards in fishing operations warrants immediate attention by the international community;

2. Further believes an effective response to addressing fisheries by catch and discards is necessary to ensure the continued long-term and sustainable development of fisheries on a regional and global basis;

3. Invites regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to review the impact of bycatch and discards on the sustainable use of the living marine resources within their areas of competence;

4. Invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to formulate bycatch reduction provisions in its International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing;

5. Urges the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks to incorporate fisheries bycatch and discards provisions in its agreement;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session consideration of this question under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

3/ See A/CONF.151/15.